



*SENATOR*  
*MICHELLE A. McMANUS*  
*McManus Minutes*



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***“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35<sup>th</sup> district.”***

*State Senator Michelle A. McManus*

**Senate Republicans introduce road reform package**

Senate Republicans have introduced a package of bills designed to reduce the cost and improve the quality of road repairs throughout Michigan.

Senate Bill 1319 lowers the competitive bidding threshold on state road projects from \$100,000 to \$50,000. Such bidding allows the state to obtain services at a competitive, market-based price.

The package would grant the Department of Treasury additional audit authority over the use of Michigan Transportation Fund money by county road commissions and municipalities. It also transfers all municipal road jurisdiction to home counties for all cities and villages that received less than \$250,000 in MTF funding per fiscal year; and modifies the state's cost allocation methodology so that transportation funds collected reflect the actual costs of collection.

Additional measures in the package would:

- Require pre-qualified private sector entities to contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation to repair and maintain roads;
- Create public transit cost-efficiency and performance standards;
- Require a competitive bidding process that allows private operators to compete for existing and new public transit passenger services;
- Create a Road Jurisdiction Task Force; and
- Require the auditor general to conduct and approve a cost allocation methodology based on actual collections costs.

Senate Bills 1316 through 1324 have been referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation for consideration.

**Senate approves bill to help protect car owners from catalytic converter theft**

Legislation that would increase the penalty for the theft of catalytic converters on vehicles was recently approved by the Michigan Senate.

Catalytic converters are attached to vehicle exhaust systems to help filter harmful engine emissions. The number of catalytic converter thefts has recently increased due to rising prices of scrap metal. Thieves steal the devices to obtain the valuable platinum contained inside.

Under Senate Bill 1193, theft of the converters will be added to the list of felony larceny of motor vehicle parts and be punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.

The Senate Republican measure has been sent to the House for consideration.

**Contact Me**

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my website: [www.senatormichellemcmanus.com](http://www.senatormichellemcmanus.com).